

The logo features a stylized, flowing river shape in white and green, set against a blue background.

St. Joseph River Basin Commission





A little about me...



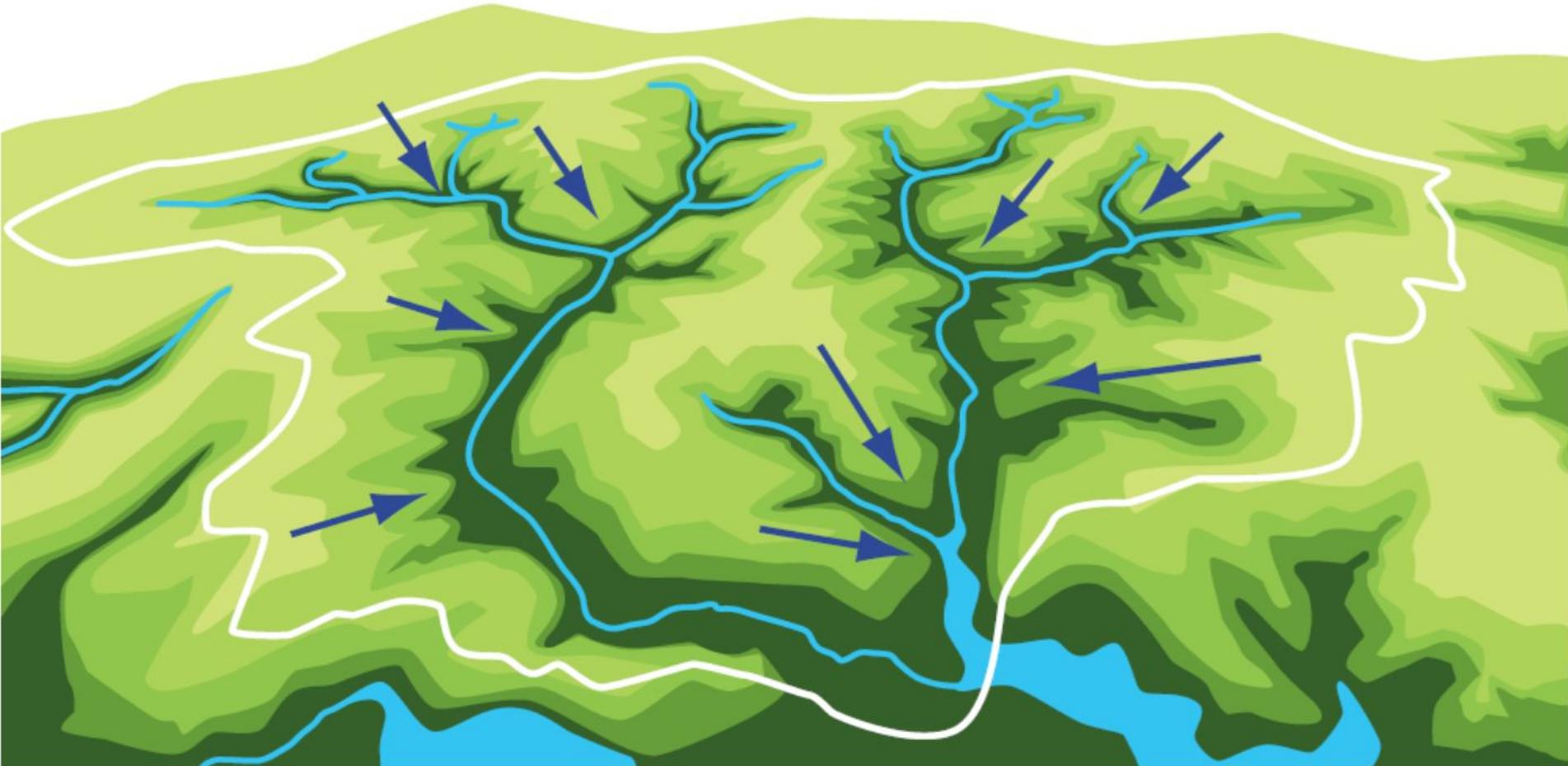
WELCOME TO
NILES CANOE RENTAL
CANOE KAYAK OR TUBE
DOWAGIAC OR ST. JOSEPH
RIVERS
99 SEASON
OPEN THROUGH
LABOR DAY
10-6

We're SORRY,
01/20/99 1999-2000
Equipment Rental
Paddles: \$
Cushions/L
Tubes: \$

87 1 1

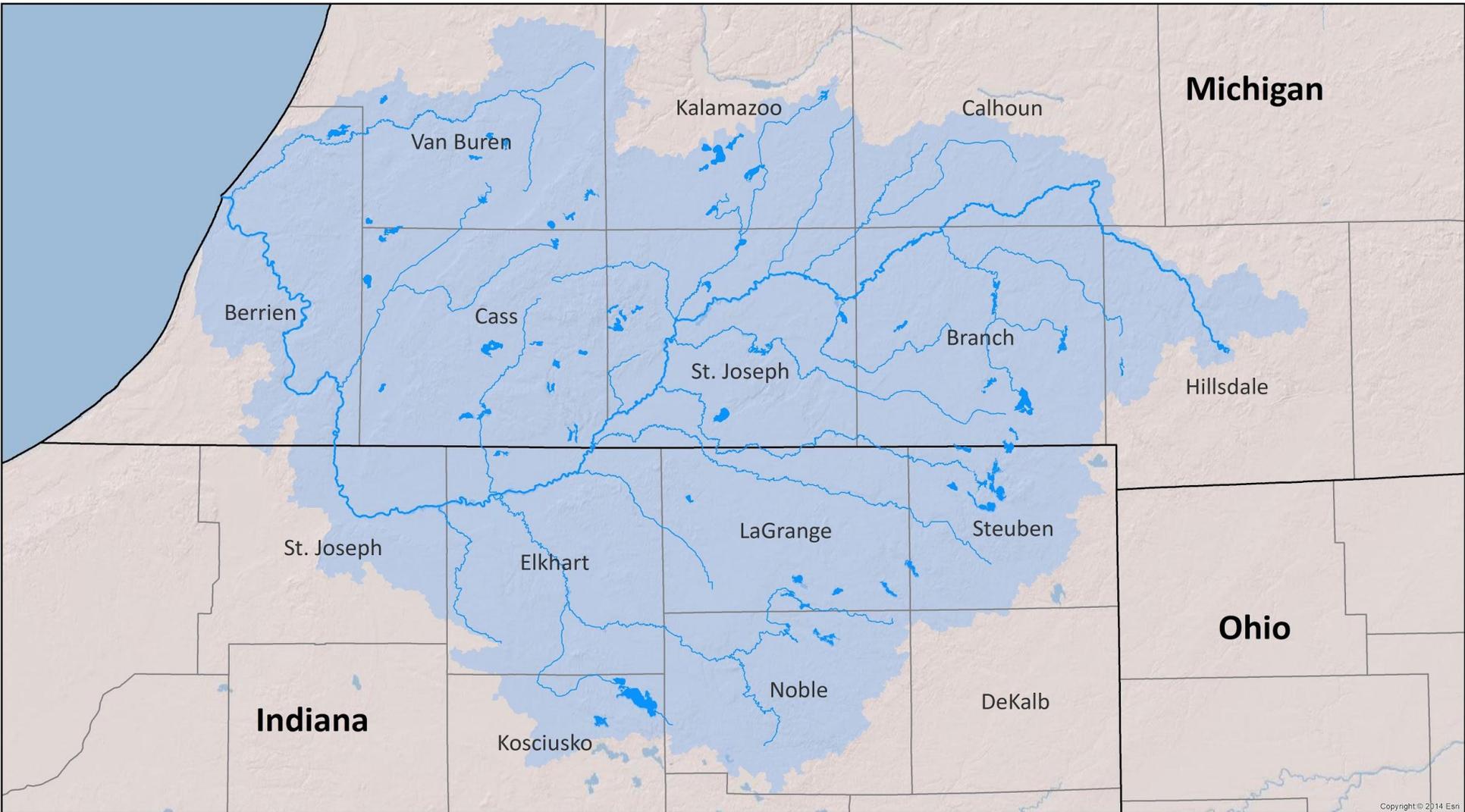


If you care about water...



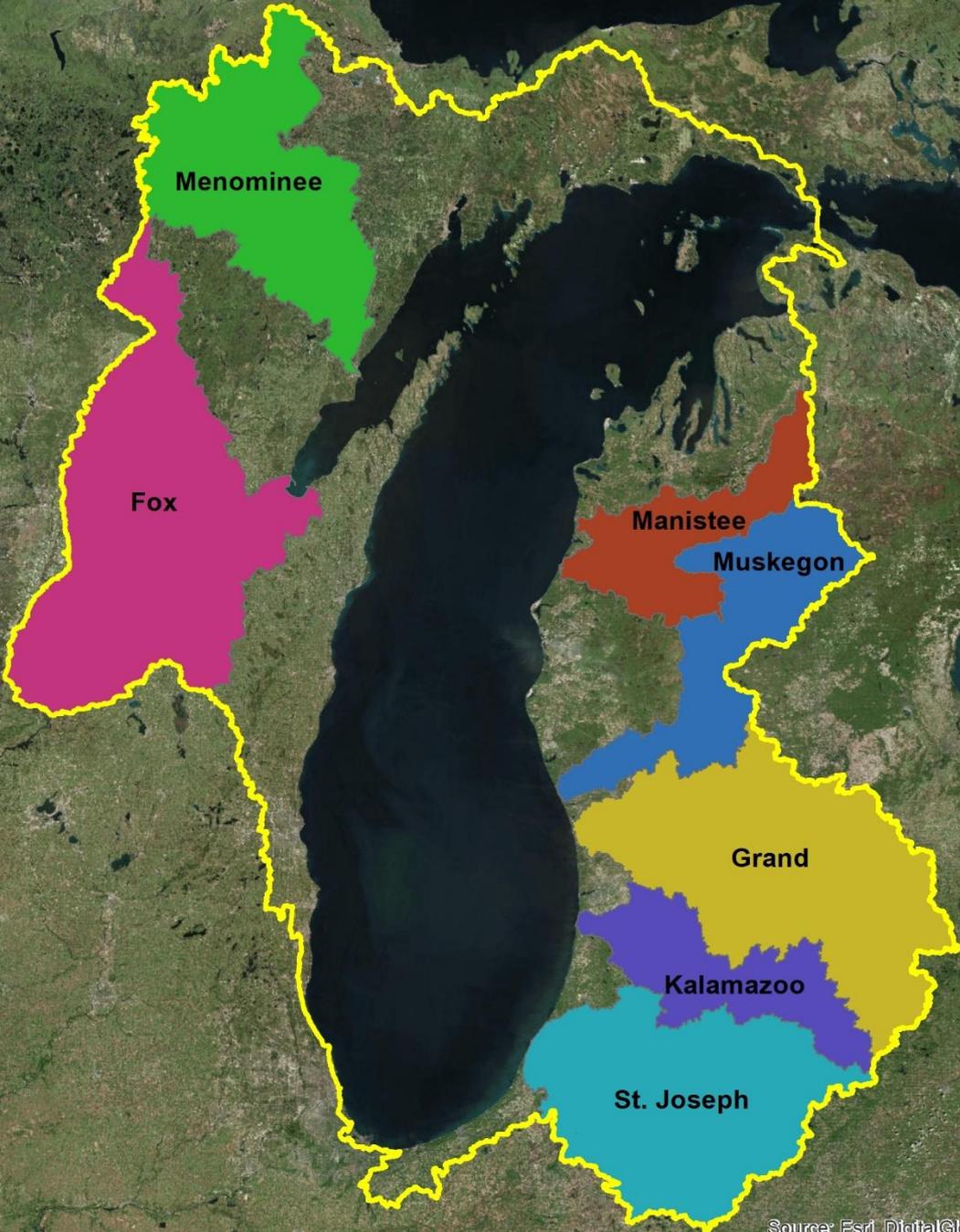


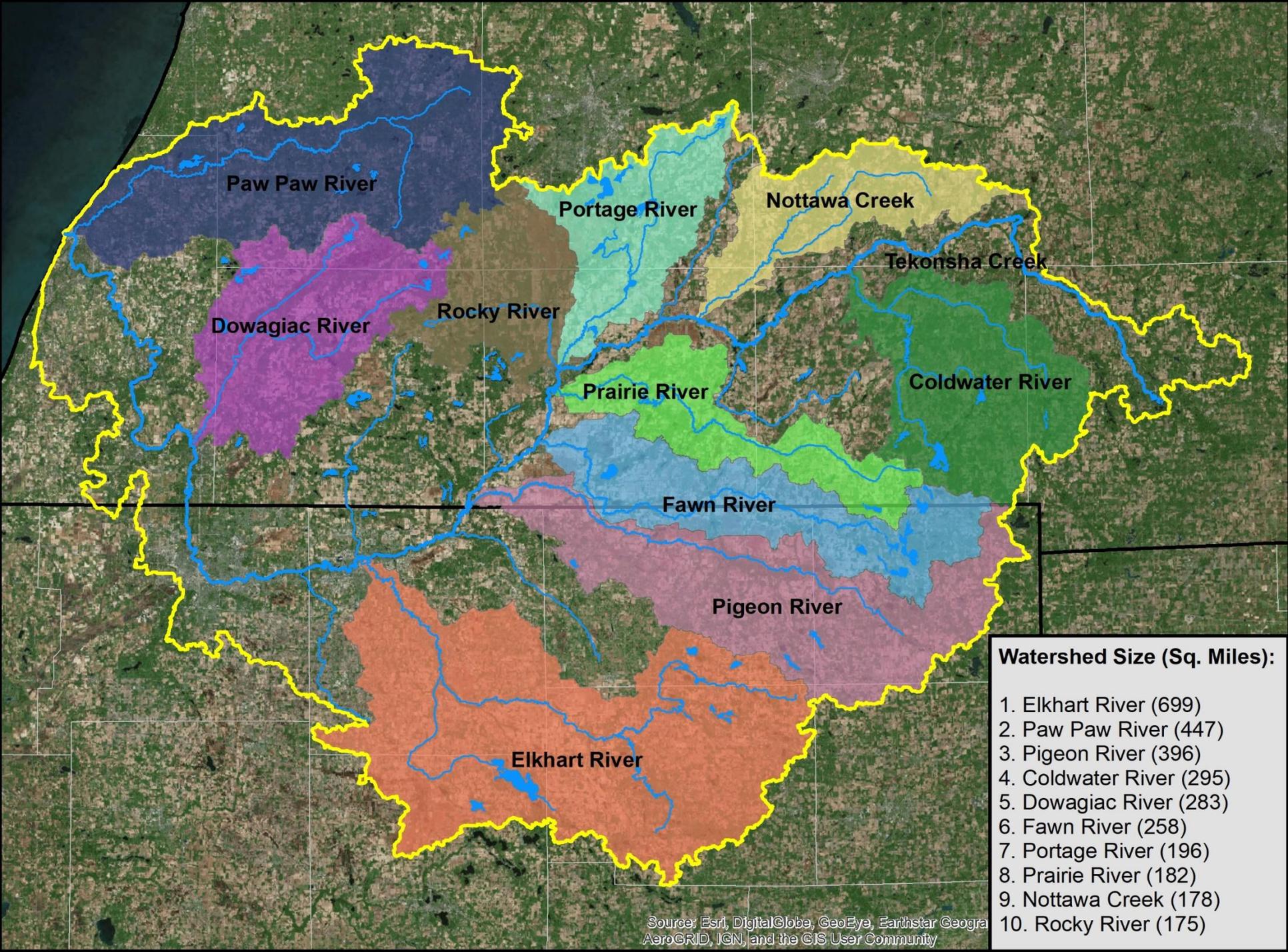
Our Basin



Watershed Size (Sq. Miles):

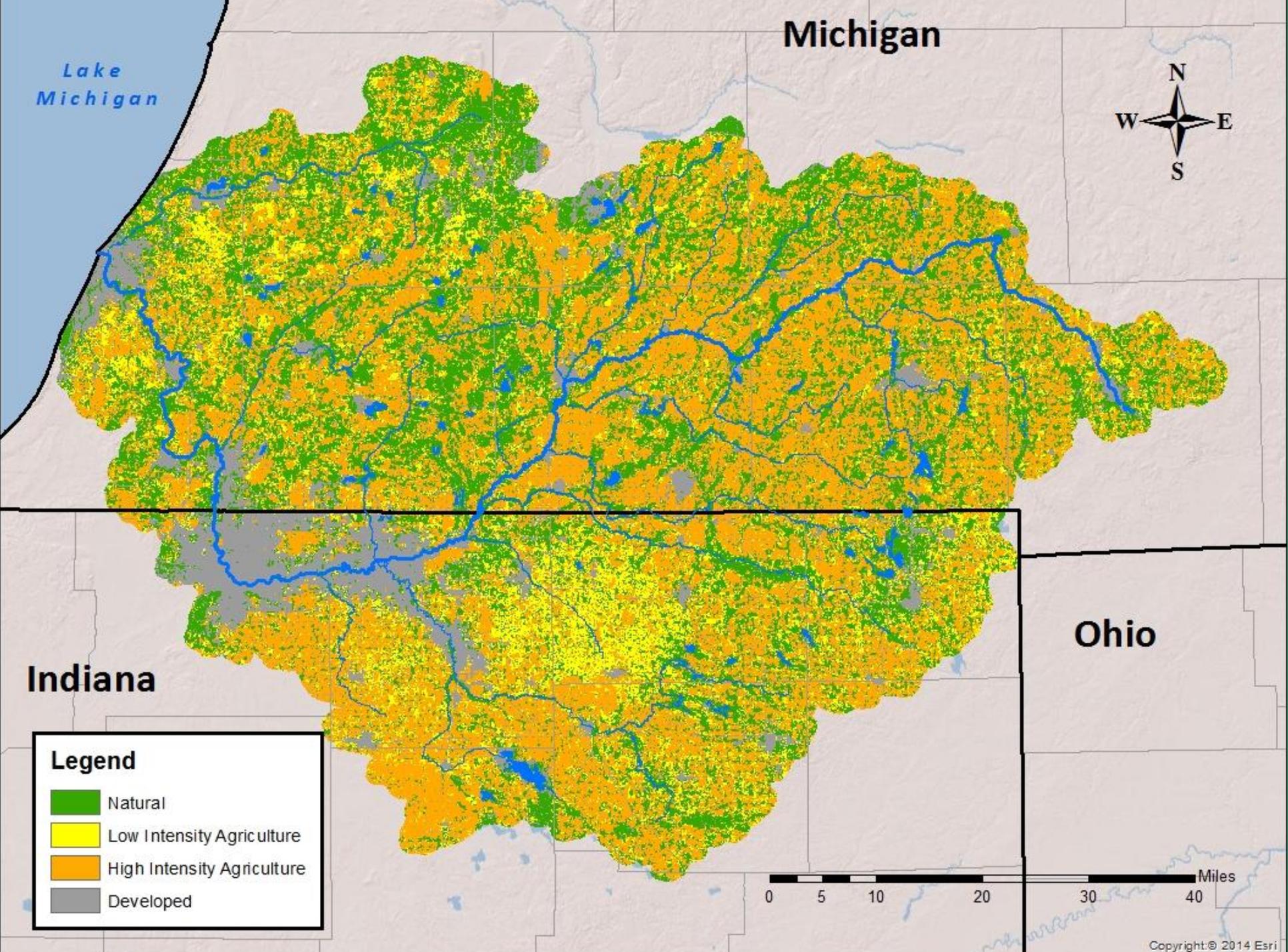
1. Fox (6,577)
2. Grand (5,577)
3. St. Joseph (4,682)
4. Menominee (4,073)
5. Muskegon (2,727)
6. Kalamazoo (2,032)
7. Manistee (1,950)





Watershed Size (Sq. Miles):

1. Elkhart River (699)
2. Paw Paw River (447)
3. Pigeon River (396)
4. Coldwater River (295)
5. Dowagiac River (283)
6. Fawn River (258)
7. Portage River (196)
8. Prairie River (182)
9. Nottawa Creek (178)
10. Rocky River (175)



Michigan

Lake Michigan



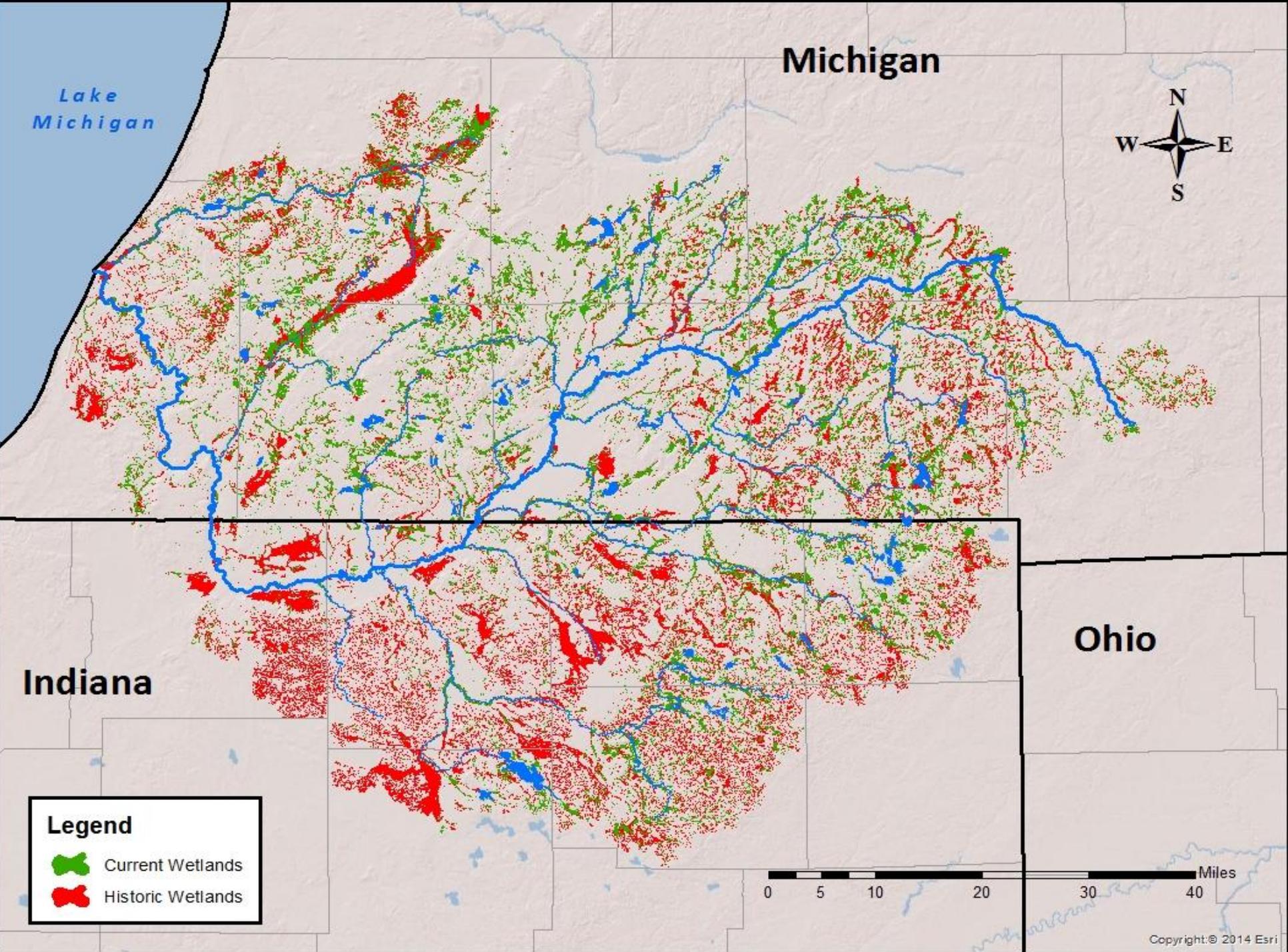
Ohio

Indiana

Legend

-  Natural
-  Low Intensity Agriculture
-  High Intensity Agriculture
-  Developed

0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles



Lake Michigan

Michigan

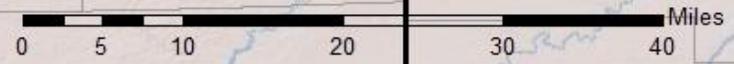


Indiana

Ohio

Legend

-  Current Wetlands
-  Historic Wetlands





St. Joseph River Basin Commission



SOUTH BEND FISH LADDER BUILT 1987

This fish ladder is the fourth in a series of fish ladders built on the St. Joseph River to allow trout and salmon to migrate 55 miles from Lake Michigan to this point. It is part of a cooperative fish management project between the States of Michigan and Indiana to provide passage for these fish up the St. Joseph River. Funds to build this ladder were provided by the State of Indiana and by the Anadromous[®] Fish Grant Program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

STATE OF INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

@Genki Kitty

Who is on the SJRBC?

Steuben County

MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE

APPOINTEE



Dick Hickman
Mayor
City of Angola

rhickman
@angolain.org
(260) 665-3556

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPOINTEE



James Crowl
Commissioner

countycommissioners
@co.steuben.in.us
(260) 668-1000 x1224

HEALTH

APPOINTEE



Ted Crisman, M.D.
Health Officer

healthdept
@co.steuben.in.us
(260) 668-1000 x1500

DRAINAGE

APPOINTEE



Mike Ruff
County Surveyor

mruff
@co.steuben.in.us
(260) 668-1000 x1800

CONSERVATION

APPOINTEE



Janel Meyer
Soil & Water
Conservation District

Janel.Meyer
@in.nacdnet.net
(260) 665-3211

STEUBEN
COUNTY



PROXY



Kris Thomas
MS4 Coordinator
City of Angola

kthomas
@angolain.org
(260) 624-2663

PROXY



Tara Lee
SWCD Resource
Conservationist

tara.lee
@in.nacdnet.net
(260) 665-3211

PROXY



Alicia Walsh
Administrator
Health Department

avanee
@co.steuben.in.us
(260) 668-1000 x1515

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

APPOINTEE



Daniel Bortner
Director

dbortner
@dnr.in.gov
(317) 232-4020

PROXY



Rod Edgell
LARE Biologist

redgell
@dnr.in.gov
(260) 244-6805 x230

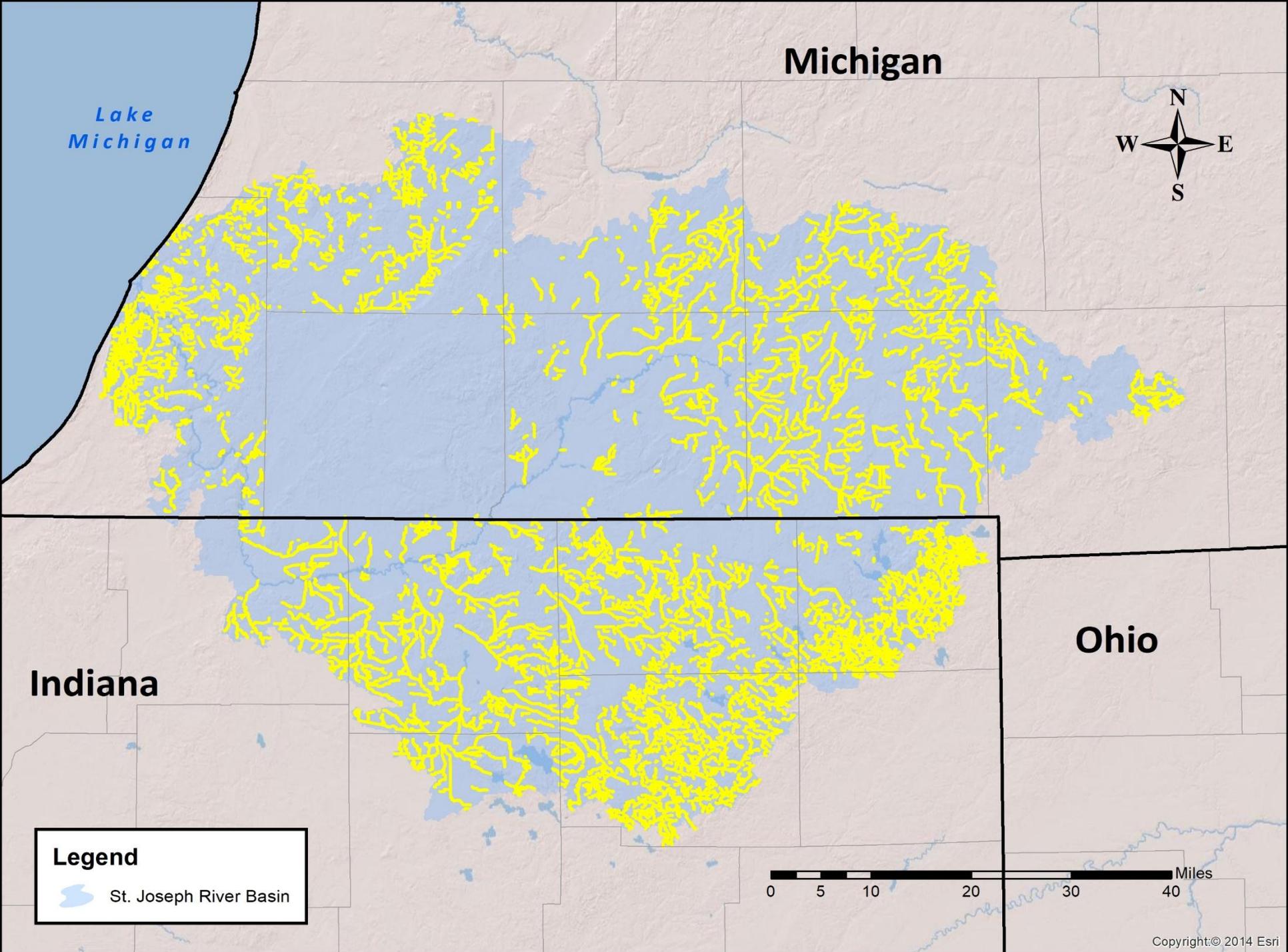
PURPOSE: *The St. Joseph River Basin Commission exists to provide a forum for the discussion, study and evaluation of water resource issues of common concern and foster cooperative planning and coordinated management of the basin's water and related land resources.*

The St. Joseph River Basin Commission was created by the Indiana General Assembly in 1988 to address water quality issues in the St. Joseph River and all the lakes and streams that flow to it. The enabling statute of the Commission (IC 14-30-3) was amended in 2018 to expand the scope and powers of the Commission to address flooding as well. The Commission seeks to work with agencies, organizations and local units of government to:

- Develop plans and tools to improve water quality or mitigate flooding in the basin;
- Coordinate monitoring of water quality and hydrology in the basin;
- Promote best practices for urban stormwater and rural drainage management;
- Develop strategies to increase water infiltration and storage capacity in the basin;
- Distribute reports on the Commission's objectives, studies, and findings;
- Make recommendations in matters related to the Commission's objectives to political subdivisions in the basin and to other public and private agencies;
- Act as a coordinating agency for programs and activities of other public and private agencies that are related to the Commission's objectives;
- Serve as an advocate of the basin's interests before Congress and federal, state and local government agencies.

Our Projects





Michigan



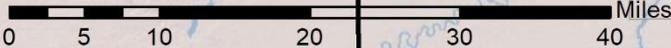
Lake Michigan

Ohio

Indiana

Legend

 St. Joseph River Basin

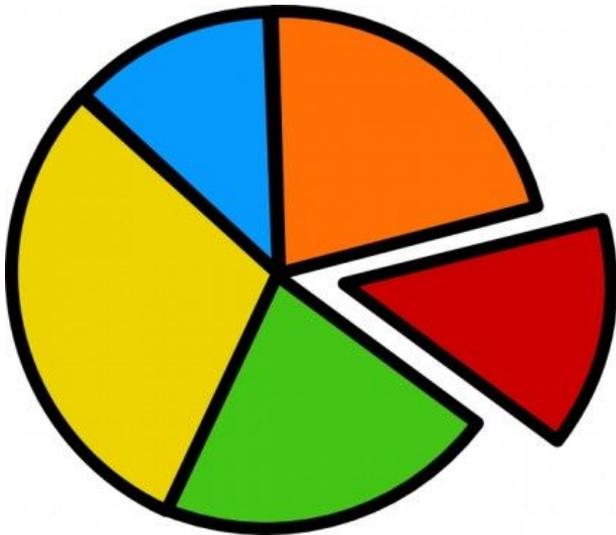




Variable Benefit Apportionment

From the Indiana Drainage Code 369-27-39:

The percentage of the estimated cost
of periodically maintaining the drain
to be assessed against
each tract of land...



**shall be based on
the benefit accruing
to each tract of land
from the maintenance...**



Determining benefits accrued

Some benefits are accrued uniformly, but some are determined by the land...

From the Indiana Drainage Code 36-9-27-112:

In determining benefits to land under Section 39, the board may consider:

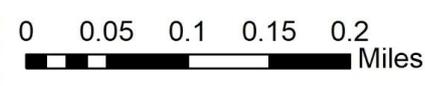
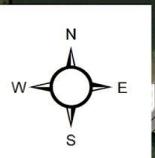
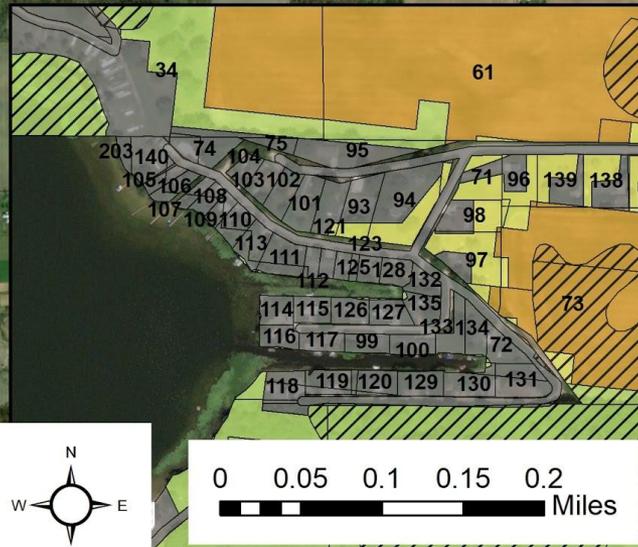
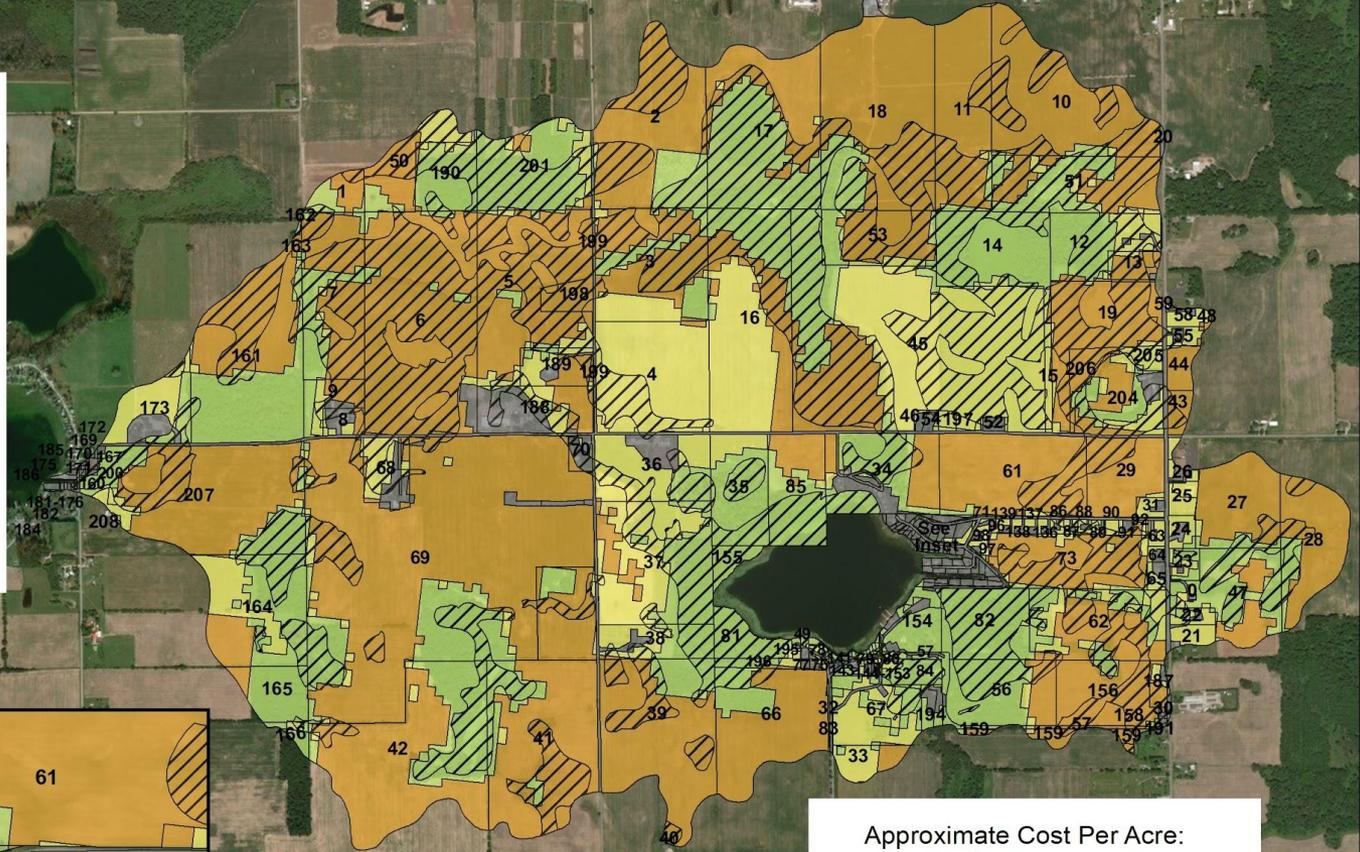
1. The watershed affected by the drain to be maintained;
2. **The number of acres in each tract;**
3. The total volume of water draining into or through the drain and the amount of water contributed by each land owner;
4. **The land use;**
5. The increased value accruing to each tract of land from the maintenance;
6. Whether the various tracts are adjacent, upland, upstream or downstream in relation to the main trunk of the drain;
7. Elimination or reduction of damage from floods;
8. **The soil type;** and
9. Any other factors affecting the maintenance.

Clinton Case Drain

Legend

Land Use, Soil

-  Developed, Poorly Drained
-  Developed, Well Drained
-  Natural, Poorly Drained
-  Natural, Well Drained
-  Pasture/Hay, Poorly Drained
-  Pasture/Hay, Well Drained
-  Row Crops, Poorly Drained
-  Row Crops, Well Drained



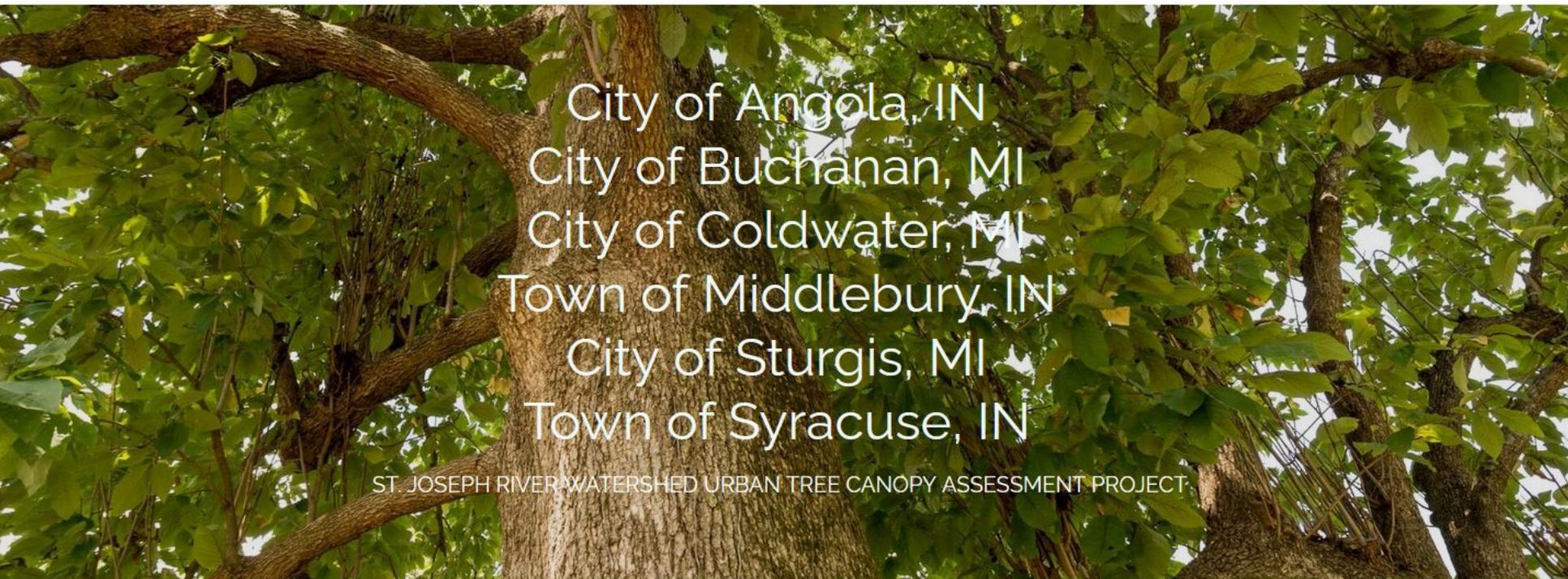
Approximate Cost Per Acre:
(after \$20 per parcel)

Developed, Poorly Drained	\$19.82
Row Crops, Poorly Drained	\$18.44
Developed, Well Drained	\$11.10
Row Crops, Well Drained	\$10.32
Grass/Hay, Poorly Drained	\$9.52
Grass/Hay, Well Drained	\$5.33
Natural, All Soils	\$4.96



TREE CANOPY IN THE ST. JOSEPH RIVER WATERSHED

— [HOME](#) [PROJECT PARTNERS](#) [PROJECT OVERVIEW](#) [COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT RESULTS](#) [RECOMMENDATIONS](#) [MORE...](#) —

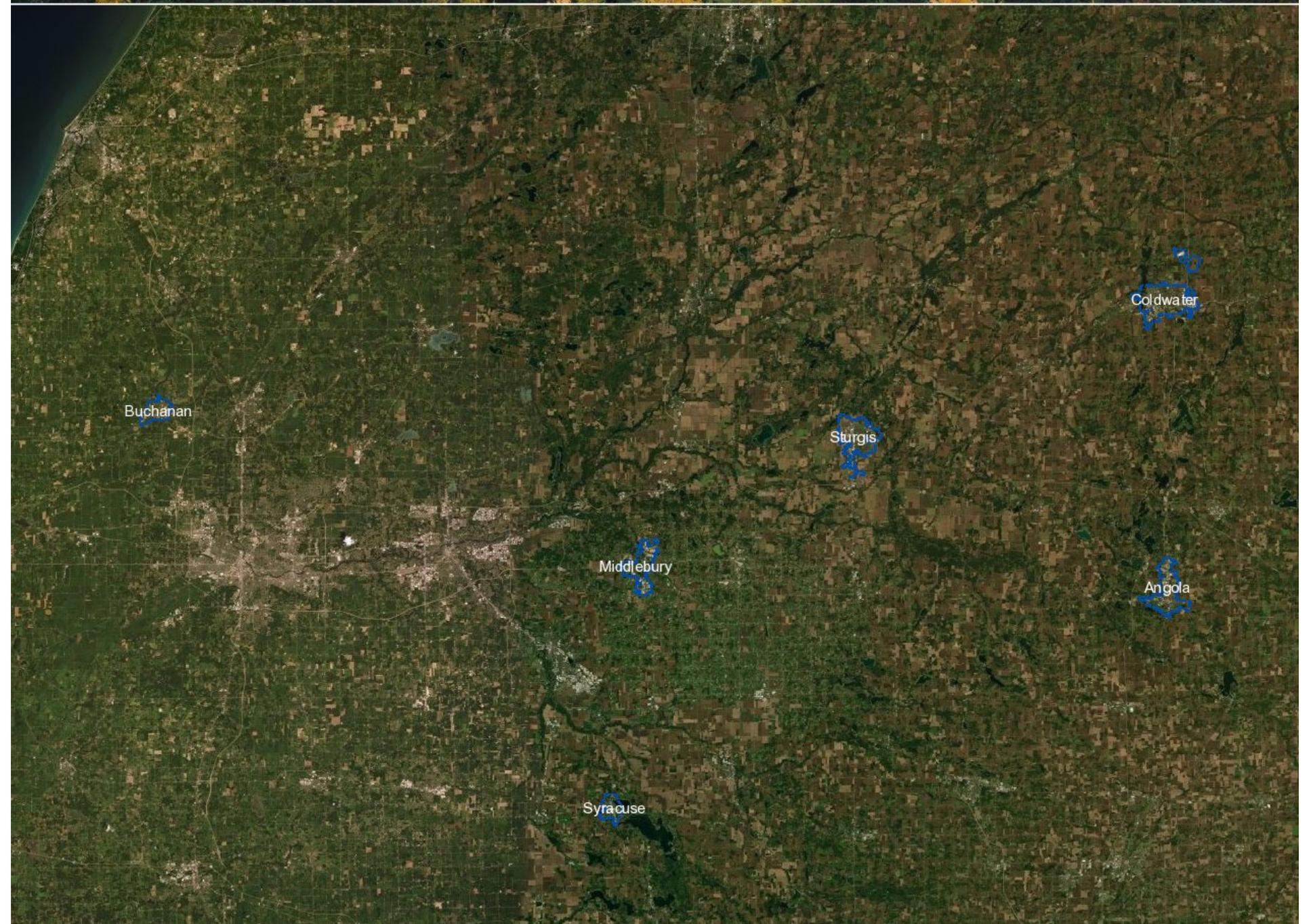


City of Angola, IN
City of Buchanan, MI
City of Coldwater, MI
Town of Middlebury, IN
City of Sturgis, MI
Town of Syracuse, IN

ST. JOSEPH RIVER WATERSHED URBAN TREE CANOPY ASSESSMENT PROJECT

In 2019, ReLeaf Michigan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the St. Joseph River Basin Commission and Davey Resource Group, Inc. received a USDA Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant to assist six communities in the St. Joseph River watershed. The grant provided funding to assess tree canopy in each community and identify ways to increase and improve tree canopy to intercept stormwater, reduce runoff, and improve water quality within the St. Joseph River watershed and the Great Lakes basin. This web-based report describes the findings of the assessments and provides community forest management recommendations for each community.

Releaf Michigan St. Joseph River Basin Urban Tree Canopy Assessment

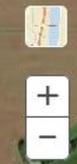
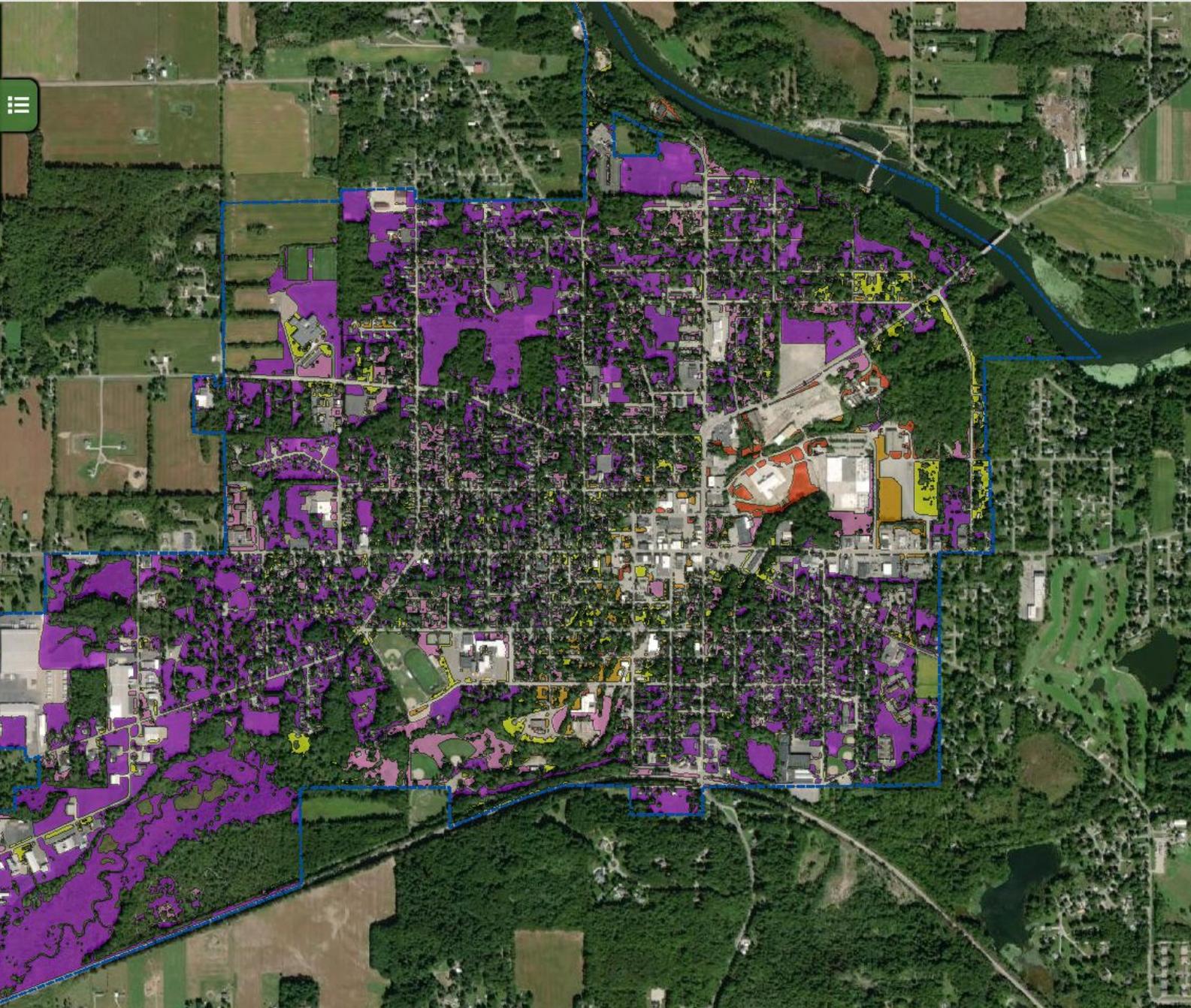


Relief Michigan St. Joseph River Basin Urban Tree Canopy Assessment

City Limits
[Blue outline]

Priority Planting

- Very High [Red square]
- High [Orange square]
- Moderate [Yellow square]
- Low [Pink square]
- Very Low [Purple square]



Flood Hazard Study





Water Monitoring



Other Commissions?



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[Home](#) » [About MRBC](#) » [Organization & Structure](#)

Organization & Structure

The Maumee River Basin Commission was established by State Law (I.C. 36-7-6.1) to assist communities in the Indiana portion of the Maumee Basin to reduce flood losses by exercising sound watershed management. Critical to the success of reducing flooding is implementation of comprehensive structural and non-structural flood control measures basin wide.

To accomplish this, the Commission is composed of representatives from six (6) counties. Each County is represented by the three (3) County Commissioners (or their official designee), County Surveyor and a member of the Soil and Water Conservation District Board (or their official designee). These members play a critical role in the formulation of policy and program recommendations. In 2001, MRBC entered the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) Program and coordinates all Floodplain mapping activity in the Maumee River Basin. The Commission also works closely with communities providing assistance and guidance on a multitude of flood mitigation projects.

The MRBC staff provide assistance in the areas of flood mitigation project planning and administration, flood mitigation assistance grant writing, flood map modernization, 319 water quality improvement grant writing, erosion and sediment control, flood insurance, floodplain ordinances, inventories of flood prone properties, storm water and erosion control ordinances, soil and water conservation, and public information programs.

[MRBC Sub-Committees](#)

About MRBC

- › [Organization & Structure](#)
- › [Membership](#)
- › [Statutory Authority](#)
- › [Mission Statement](#)
- › [2015 Meeting Schedule](#)
- › [Board Meeting Minutes](#)
- › [Floodplain / Floodway Regulations](#)
- › [Stormwater Management Regulations](#)
- › [Administrative Funding](#)
- › [Legislative Representation](#)
- › [MRBC Watershed Map](#)
- › [MRBC Award Winning Organization](#)

Search this site:

Am I in a flood area?

To find whether your home is located in a FEMA Flood-Risk Area, simply go to either of the links below, type in your street address and click "go".

Other Commissions?

ISSUE

01

MARCH
2020

JOURNAL OF
KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN AND
YELLOW RIVER BASIN
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

RIVER NEWS



this issue

State Investment **P.1**

About Us **P.2**

Frequently Asked Questions **P.3**

Fast Facts and Overview **P.4**

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON COVID-19

Right now, our entire nation is fighting to persevere through the current COVID-19 public health crisis. At the same time, our Commission is striving to be part of the solution.

To the maximum extent under current health and safety guidelines, we are continuing both our work and our mission. While we may have to temporarily adapt our meeting

State invests \$2.3 million in Kankakee, Yellow Rivers

The Indiana General Assembly appropriated \$2.3 million in state funding to the newly formed Kankakee River Basin and Yellow River Basin Development Commission. The legislature's action

In his testimony to the legislature, Pelath described how the Commission plans for the state dollars, which include:



Other Commissions?

HOUSE BILL No. 1055

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 14-8-2; IC 14-30.5.

Synopsis: Watershed development commissions. Provides that the executives of one or more counties may adopt ordinances designating their counties as members of a proposed watershed development commission and that the watershed development commission is established as a legal entity with the counties as its members if it is recognized by the natural resources commission. Requires the natural resources commission, in deciding whether to recognize a proposed watershed development commission, to answer certain questions. Provides that a county may become a member of an established watershed development commission if its membership is accepted by the member counties and recognized by the natural resources commission. Sets forth certain flood control and drainage purposes for which a watershed development commission may be established. Requires a watershed development commission to develop a flood control and drainage plan for its designated watershed and grants a watershed development commission exclusive authority to perform drainage and flood control activities within the channel of the river that is the surface water outlet of the commission's designated watershed. Provides for a watershed development commission to be governed by a board. Provides for the funding of a watershed development commission through an annual special assessment against each taxable parcel of real property located: (1) in a member county; and (2) within the designated watershed of the watershed development commission. However, authorizes a member county to adopt any of three alternative methods of funding the watershed development commission. Authorizes a watershed development commission to give preference to an Indiana business over an out-of-state business in contracting for public works.

Effective: July 1, 2021.



St. Joseph River Basin Commission

Questions?

227 W. Jefferson Blvd.
1120 County-City Bldg.
South Bend, IN 46601

www.sjrbc.com

Contact: Matt Meersman
BasinDirector@macog.com
574.287.1829 ext.800